Municipal Council and a full time official Vice-President was appointed for the Shimoga Municipality.

The question of improving the water supply of Chitaldrug by pumping water from the Katharahal tank, a distance of about eight miles from the town, has been approved. Government have promised a liberal contribution and arrangements have been made to finance the scheme by a loan to be raised, as far as possible, within the district itself.

Local Boards.

62. The total income and expenditure under District Funds were approximately Rs. 12,27,618 and Rs. 9,78,266, respectively. The special features of the Local Boards administration during the year were the levy of a railway cess in the Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts and the amendment of the Local Boards Regulation authorising the levy of shop tax in Unions.

Reforms.

63. In last year's address, I outlined the principal reforms in connection with municipalities and district boards then under contemplation and I also stated that the proposals involved a very appreciable contribution from State revenues, and required further consideration before Government were able to accept them. The question is now ripe for orders which Government hope to issue very shortly.

10.—Schemes of Rural Improvement.

Village Improvement Scheme.

64. At the close of the last official year, 8,171 village committees were working in the several districts as shown below :—

Districts	No. of village committees
1. Mysore	1,580
2. Tumkur	1,249
3. Kolar	1,072
4. Bangalore	1,050
5. Hassan	999
6. Chitaldrug	853
7. Shimoga	846
8. Kadur	522
Total ...	8,171

The population served by the committees was 4,514,244 or roughly three-fourths of the entire population of the State. The system of devoting half-a-day's labour every week for tidying up village sites and carrying out works of

communal benefit has been followed by 3,825 committees representing a population of 2,069,453. Village libraries have been started or newspapers are being subscribed for, by 3,670 committees. The amount spent for works of permanent improvement such as wells, roads, etc., was Rs. 96,159, out of which a sum of Rs. 46,563 was sanctioned as Government grants-in-aid, the remainder being contributed by villagers either in cash or by labour. The improvement of village cart-tracks has received considerable attention and it is reported that a length of 750 miles has been laid out or repaired since the scheme came into operation. The progress made in this direction in the Bangalore District is particularly marked. Tree planting formed a special feature of the work done in the Chitaldrug District.

65. I made a special inspection of some parts of the Districts of Tumkur, Mysore and Hassan to examine the working of the scheme and I noticed that everywhere a considerable amount of useful work was being done. It rests with the Deputy Commissioners and Amildars and the leaders of the people to see that the work done is consolidated and extended.

Tank Panchayet Scheme.

66. At the end of 1914-15, the total number of tank panchayets sanctioned was 53 and 20 panchayets were ordered to be constituted during the year 1915-16, of which, 17 were in respect of tanks in the Tumkur District. The panchayets in the Kolar, Mysore and Kadur Districts are reported to be doing some practical work by attending to the annual repairs and regulating the distribution of water.

Village Forests.

67. Nineteen village forests covering an area of 9,487 acres were formed during the year, and the constitution of 17 forests with an area of 8,149 acres has been since notified making a total of 36 village forests covering an area of nearly 18,000 acres.

Village Courts.

68. One hundred and twenty-eight Village Munsiff's Courts commenced work during the year.

Minor Tank Restoration Scheme,

69. Six hundred and forty-seven tanks were taken up for restoration during the year and 186 were completed at an outlay of Rs. 86,130. Considering the large lapses in allotments, the progress made has been somewhat disappointing. Arrangements are being made to train educated villagers to enable them to undertake the construction of minor tanks and a manual of instructions has been prepared for their guidance.

70. To ensure better progress under the rural water supply scheme inaugurated in January 1915, the purchase of a set of boring tools and the employment of a special staff consisting of one overseer and three or four maistries have been sanctioned for each district. The State grant of Rs. 1,00,000, and the contribution of half a lakh each from the village improvement fund and district fund respectively, are being continued. A set of instructions for sinking drinking water wells together with type designs has been circulated to all the District Boards. *Rural Water Supply Scheme.*

71. The scheme for the improvement of the *malnad* was sanctioned in February 1914 and has been in operation for over two years. The progress achieved since the beginning may be summarised as follows:— *Malnad Improvement Scheme.*

Rank vegetation has been cleared in 570 villages. The value of the work done under this head by the raiyats is estimated at Rs. 26,531 the contribution from Government being Rs. 3,042. Construction of wells has been proposed in 107 villages and 54 wells have already been completed. A beginning has been made in opening minor village roads. Greater facilities have been afforded to the people for obtaining sites and supplies of timber for building houses for themselves.

Large quantities of quinine tablets have been distributed to the people and it is reported that the use of the tablets is becoming popular. The propaganda work included the distribution of leaflets on sanitation and hygiene and the exhibition of lantern slides depicting the health conditions of the *malnad* and the precautions to be taken by the people resident in the area. A disease survey has been commenced on a small scale in the Sagar Taluk. Increased facilities have been provided for affording medical relief.

In May 1916, a scheme was sanctioned for granting facilities to persons intending to settle down in the *malnad*. A commencement has been made in promoting industrial education in different centres. The adoption of measures on an adequate scale, for relieving the indebtedness of the *malnad* raiyats, is engaging the attention of Government.

With a view to popularise the scheme, Taluk conferences were held during the year at Channagiri, Shikarpur, Sagar, Kallurkatte and Tirthahalli.

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